17.

ROUSE
HIS
CASE,

Truly Stated and Written with his own Hand in *NEWGATE*, Two Days before his EXECUTION, to prevent any false Reports.

Wherein he gives the World an Account

Of
- Of the Place and Manner how he was Taken.
- His being before the King and Council two or three times.
- The manner of his Commitment, where, and for what.
- His Removal to *Newgate*.
- His Arraignment with Captain *Blage*.
- His Tryal apart from Captain *Blage*.
- The Witnesses, and What difference between the Indictment and what the Witnesses then Swore.
- His Defence for himself, how he was brought in Guilty.

Sentence past. With a Declaration against things charged upon him; and a Confession of his Faith, with his Prayer for the Church of God, *&c.*

To which is annexed, a LETTER to his Wife, from *Newgate*.

LONDON:
Printed by *J. Grantham*, by the Order of the Widdow *Rouse*. 1683.

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Wedneſday, July 4. 83. Towards Evening I went into *Barbican* to ſpeak with a Friend, I went into a *Coffee-houſe*, drank a *Mugg* of *Ale*, of a ſuddain I heard a noiſe of Swordmen that were coming to ſearch the ſaid Houſe for a perſon called *Armiger*; I being alone in a low-Room, walked into the Garden until ſuch time as the hurry ſhould be over; while I was in the Garden, out comes one Man, then another, ſeeing me, asked if my Name was not *Armiger*? I replyed and ſaid, no. What is your Name then ſaid one of the perſons? Now I was altogether ignorant of what they meant, or that they had any Warrant from *White-hall* to impower one or both as a Meſſenger or Meſſengers, and therefore made this Anſwer, *John-Son*, being the Son of *John*. But one of them, called *William Richardſon*, being a Meſſenger, having a General Warrant to queſtion and take up all that he ſuſpected, demanded the place of my aboad, to ſee whether I were ſuch a perſon: Thereupon I made an Apollogy for my ſelf, and told them my Name was *Rouſe*; Thereupon a Porter was ſent to my Houſe, and about the Neighborhood, to ſatisfie themſelves that ſuch

Note, that they had no Warrant againſt me.

Note, That if I had been guilty of any Plot, I ſhould not have been upon the Exchange to the laſt, and about my own buſineſs every day.

such a one lived there; that would not satisfie, but they would have some known person thereabouts to ingage for me; whereupon I sent, and some where not at home, others were shy of Appearing, and when they saw that, nothing must serve, but they charged a Constable with me, took Coach and carried me to the *Fleet* for security, the Secretary of the same being an assistant to the said Messenger. This was about Ten or Eleven at Night.

Thursday, 5. day. Next Morning I was carried to *White-hall*, after a little while I was called into the Secretary's Chamber, where were present, the King, the Duke of *York*, Lord Keeper *North*, Lord *Halifax*, Lord *Sunderland*, Secretary, Secretary *Jenkins*; Lord Keeper acquainted me that there was an Information brought against me of Treason, and instanced in several particulars. However, if I would be ingenuous, and confess the persons concerned, or know of any thing against His Majesty, I should find favour. Thereupon I desired to be excused from answering then, (to prevent any mistakes, seeing so many at the Table with each Man his Pen ready to write down whatever was spoken) but promised to put into writing what I knew of any design against His Majesty, or the Peace of His Kingdom; which when they heard, the Duke of *York* urged with divers Arguments to speak what I had to say immediately, but I still insisted upon Writing my Mind. Thereupon His Majesty proposed, and it was agreed on, that I should take Four or Five hours, and be alone, to do what was necessary, and the Messenger was ordred to carry me to the *Plantation-Office* near *Scotland Yard*, where a Guard was set till I had finished. About Four in the Afternoon I went with my Paper, and one of the Clerks of the Council was ordred to receive it, who calling for it, carried it in, and I was ordered to tarry a while; mean time Mr. *Thomas Lee* a Dyer was called in, who was the person that informed against me, and who himself was Sworn

against

againſt by two others, *viz. How* of *Old-ſtreet*, and *Keeling* of *Eaſt-Smithfield*: when he came out, I was called in, and the Lord Keeper told me, I had not been free and ingenuous, but did keep back what was material, having received further Information againſt me; upon which I told them, that I had done what poſſible could be done within that ſpace of time allotted, and promiſed whatever ſhould accrue to my memory I would faithfully diſcover, and not falſly accuſe either Friend or Foe: Then I was ordered to withdraw, and ordered to appear next day by Eight in the Morning; then I returned to the *Fleet* again. And

I was carried up again, tarried all the Forenoon, not called in, but adjourned till Four the ſame day; at Four a Clock, having Dined at *Temple-Bar*, went up again, and was adjourned till Four a Clock next day; ſo went to the *Fleet* again. *Fryday, 6. day.*

Early in the Morning I ſent to His Majeſty to ſpeak with him alone; for which purpoſe a Gentleman went and acquainted His Majeſty, who was in the *Park*, and ordered me to come to him; when I came, I found His Majeſty at one end, and the Two Secritaries of State at the other end of the Room; His Majeſty called me to him, with whom I had private conference about a quarter of an hour and more, in which time I ſatisfied His Majeſty how far *Thomas Lee* had been ingaged in Words and Actions againſt His Majeſty; His Majeſty ſeemed very well pleaſed, and commanded me to put it in Writing, and bring it to him again; ſo I went away with the Meſſenger and followed His Majeſties command, drew up a rough draft, returned to *White hall* at the time appointed, ſent into the Secretary that I were come, but inſtead of being called in, the Council went away, and the Secretary gave a Warrant to the Meſſenger for my Commitment to the *Marſhalſey*, for High-Treaſon, *Saturday, 7. day.*

Treaſon, in Compaſſing the death of His Majeſty, and Levying of Arms.

About Seven or Eight at Night I was ſent away by Water with a File of Soldiers to the *Marſhalſey*, where I were committed cloſe Priſoner, next day put in Chains, and could not have the liberty of any one to acquaint my Wife where I was, though I begged as for an Alms, and told the Marſhal how my Wife was big and near her time.

Monday, 9. day. A Meſſenger came from the Attorney General to acquaint me how I muſt prepare againſt *Wedneſday* for a Tryal; thereupon I writ Mr. Attorney a Letter, wherein I acquainted him with what had paſt between His Majeſty and my ſelf, and how I was ſurprized, alſo how hard it was, what diſadvantages I lay under to prepare for a Tryal; for notwithſtanding this notice, I was not allowed any body to come to me, nor the uſe of Pen, Ink or Paper.

Tueſday, 10. The Marſhal received an order to bring me to *Whitehall*, where we went, tarried ſome Hours, and orddred to appear next Morning.

Wedneſday, 11. Inſtead of going to *White-hall*, an *Habias Corpus* was ſent to carry me to *Newgate*. About Nine in the Forenoon I was carried to *Newgate*, where my Wife came to me and tarried about half an hour, but could get no other Friend till Nine at Night, nor Council to adviſe withal without Order of Court.

Thurſday, 12. Captain *Richardſon* carried me to the *Old-Baley*, and being there, I found that Captain *Blage* and my ſelf were put in one Indictment, which was read, to which we pleaded *Not Guilty*. Then we withdrew; the Bill given to the Grand Inqueſt, who found it againſt us both; afterwards being called again, to hold up our Hands, we Pleaded as before: Being asked by whom we would be Tryed, we anſwered, By God and our Countrey.

We

Fryday 13. We were called again, and required to take our Tryal, Captain *Blage* asked, whether we muſt Anſwer, ſeverally or jointly, Sir *George Jefferies* ſaid, we might Anſwer ſeverally, then the Captain Begged Liberty to Anſwer for himſelf, and the Court Ordered me to take mine firſt, but before I took my Tryal, I prayed the Court for more time, becauſe of the diſadvantages that I had been under, however the Court would not admit of it, but ſaid, I muſt do it now, to which I ſubmitted, having no Copy of the Indictment, no Councel nor other to adviſe withal, the Indictment read, and Witneſs called in to prove it, which was, *viz.* *Thomas Lea* Dyer, *William Leigh*, Captain *Blage*'s Mate, *Thomas Corbin* alſo brought, not as a Material Witneſs in this matter, as Sir *George Jefferies* declared, but to declare words that I ſhould ſpeak in 81, whoſe Evidence could not be allowed then, becauſe Juſtice could not be had, and at ſuch a time, when the Judge was in fear of his Life, as he ſate upon the Bench. Moreover, Sir *George Jefferies* ſaid, how that I were to be Pay-maſter, under a great now dead to a Rabble, the fourth Witneſs was *Richardſon*, the Meſſenger to Witneſs where he took me, and how I ſpoke of *Johnſon*.

The Witneſſes being Sworn, the Indictment was read, how that I ſhould be Guilty as before, and particularly that on the ſecond of *March* laſt, I was with divers others at ſuch a place, where Captain *William Blage*, and had many Armes, as Blunderbuſſes *&c.* and contrived as before, *Lea* Swears not a Word of this, but that on the laſt of *June*, we were at the *Kings-head* in *Sweetings* Alley *London*, that we contrived taking the *Tower*, of the City of *London*, *Whitehall*, St. *James*'s, that Captain *William Blage*, his Mate, and other Sea-men were Ingaged in taking the *Tower*, how that a Golden Ball was to be thrown up upon *Black-heath*, for to Gather Sea-men together at the drinking of a Bowl of Punch, that the Aldermen were to be Kill'd, His Majeſty and Duke of *York* ſecured, but ſaid, the truth was Mr. *Rouſe* was not for Shedding of Blood, much leſs Killing of the KING and his Highneſs the DUKE of *York*, that *Goodenough*, and I Diſcourſed about it, and that Mr.

Goodenough did give him thanks for his Acquaintance with me, that it was contrived, His Majesty was to be seized as he came from *Windsor*, that Armes were to be sent down in Trunks, that all was to be done before Mid Summer, being asked, who began any Discourse of this Nature, whether he or I first, indeed that he could not well remember, the price of the Ball was valued by me at 10 *s.* telling of *R. Goodenough* of it, he should say, no matter if it cost 40 *l.* we will have it, farther he swears, that I should say that the King had Sworn in *Spain* & *France*, to establish Popery in *England*, and for not performing his Oath the Papists were angry with him; upon all which, Sir *George Jefferies* animadverted, and aggrivated as much as possible.

2. Witness, was *William Leigh*, who was Informed against by *Lee*, as a Confederate with *William Blage*, in contriving how to take the *Tower*, this Witness now was brought, that they might have full Evidence to Swear against me, he threw that upon me, which he was instigated and prompted too by *Lee*.

3. Witness, *Corbin*, who Swore that I should say in 81. that His Majesty had forfeited his Crown, that he had no more, but what a Parliament could give or take away when they pleased.

4. Witness, *Richardson* so prov'd the word *Johnson*, whereupon, Sir *George Jefferies* took occasion to signifie what Spirit the Prisoner was of always against the King, that I had as many names as designs.

To all which I replied, *viz.* first, as to *Lee*, how he was but of late acquaintance, being as I well remember about *May*, so that of the second of *March*, must fall to ground, that when he entred into a Discourse with me once, and again it was about a Forraign Invasion, to oppose which I discovered my tenderness again and again, that what was discoursed about the *Tower* and *Sea-men*, the Captain and others, was by and from himself, as I find he discoursed with

Mr.

Mr. *Hone*, and Mr. *Keeling* formerly, that another, I, not Captain *Blage* did look on it for a great while, but Romantick Diſcourſe, that it was never in my heart in the leaſt to appear againſt His Majeſty, or do any thing againſt the Peace of his Government.

That *Lea* had been an Induſtrious drudge, to carry on a Deſign, and to ſee how it would take, that it was his cunning to ſpeak with but one very rarely at a time, ſave Captain *William Blage*, and his Mate was preſent and no other, that there was never a word, that ever paſt about any ſuch things between *Goodenough* and I, that I never ſaw him but twice after ſuch Diſcourſe aroſe, and one of the times he asked me if I knew Captain *Blage*, that he ſaw he was a ſtout Fellow and hoped he was honeſt, I told him I knew no other and no more, but the Diſcourſe fell to the Ground that I never knew of any meeting with Captain *Blage*, that we were never together with him, that whatever it was, I found *Lea* carried it on upon a Deſign to raiſe himſelf in the World.

That I never ſpoke what *Corbin* ſwore too ſingly and barely, but as that may be hereafter, that the Mate was under a ſurprize as to ſome things, but that I asked him if he were acquainted with honeſt *Hone*, I deny not, but not upon any account of a Deſign againſt His Majeſty. That when I ſaid *Johnſon*, I had no knowledge of the Perſons or there asking my name, nor that was a denying of my name, being asked for Witneſſes, let the World Judge in what capacity I were to produce any, and for what, that what civillity I ſhewed *Lea*, was no manner of Argument that I deſigned Injury to my King, that I was often afraid of his going away, or that he would be under a Temptation, to do by me, as he oft threatned to do by *Keeling*, and *Harry* very often told me, that he was never in that Rogues Company but once in four Months, that he had been at *East-Smithfield* on purpoſe to Kill that Dog.

That *Lea* being taken up, and being concious to himſelf, what he had ſaid, was Guilty of, and how he was in with

Nelthrop &c. who Obſconded that I had heard him, ſpeak very unworthily of, and againſt the Duke of *York*, that he was privy to ſome Wicked Deſign or other, now for fear I ſhould appear againſt him, the Devil put him upon Swearing that againſt me, whereof he knows in his own Conſcience he was the Sole Author, but God forgive him, and grant my Blood may not be laid to his Charge, then I withdrew, and the Jury brought me in Guilty of High Treaſon, againſt whom I have nothing to ſay, they are to give Account at a Greater Bar, if Guilty of any Error, and beſides, I ever had a great Veneration for that Conſtitution, however, ſome Euthorigant Licentious Perſons take Liberty to beſpatter that Kind of Order.

Next Captain *Blage* was called, and but one Witneſs againſt him, he was acquitted.

Saturday the Fourteenth, Captain *Thomas Walcot*, a Man I never knew, *William Hone* and I were called to the Bar, where each of us read our Sentence of Death, not to ſpeak of the Defence I made them, for it was over-ruled, now after all that has been ſaid *Pro* and *Con*, It concerns me as a Man, an Engliſh-man and Chriſtian, for the ſatisfaction of all Perſons to whom this Story ſhall come, having a clear Conſcience, as to any Deſign againſt the King or Government, ſave that I heard ſuch diſcourſe, that I could not heartily acquies in.

I do declare ſolemnly, in the Words of a dying Man, being under the Sentence of Death, and as I know to whom I muſt give Account for the ſame.

That I ever declared againſt King Killing Principles and Practices, but rather looked on it as my duty, and made it my Practice to Pray for him, as often as I Prayed for daily bread or for my own Soul.

That

That I never knew none of the Persons in the Proclamation, until the first proclamation after, Colonel *Rumsey* &c. That I was never to be a Pay-master to any Rabble under agreement to the Lord now dead, and Sir *George Jefferies* said, I were but only a Pay master in *Flanders* 8. for *Lea* must needs know, and then he could say, that they were all concerned, and many go up and down *England*, if so the more Wicked Wretch he to Conceal it so long, and for being so sh, notwithstanding all my sittings of him to know, but as I said he had a Wicked Design to carry on, and so he might escape at last, he did not care against whom he swore, for there are more besides my self.

That I never knew of any Armes, as Blunderbusses, &c. provided or to be provided, That I never spoke to any Seamen, about carrying on a Design, save a kind of discourse, which *Lea* fomented and promoted in the presence of Captain *William Blage*, and his Mate, with whom I was as an old acquaintance, acquainted for many Years, and whom I knew to be Faithful to his Prince, whom he had served for many years at Sea, with his life, whom I assisted for his dispatch to *New-York*, and knew his resolution, and bent lay that way, for which place he bought a Ship, and was making all manner of haste to be gone.

That I never knew of any design against the City, or much less Killing the Aldermen, that I never knew of Attaching His Majesty (whom God preserve) as he should come from *Windsor* or any place else, that I never heard one word from *Richard Goodenough*, of acting any such thing or any other, that I had been acquainted with *Richard Goodenough* many Years, as an Attorney and no otherwise, and therefore it was unlikely that he should give *Lea* thanks for bringing him to his acquaintance; that these were none of my words, I never did or could say, that His Majesty had taken an Oath in *Spain* & *France* to do so and so; and that I should have it under the Kings hand, I utterly deny it; but I remember I heard a profligate Villain speak somewhat to that purpose, this was some Years past, and I might speak what a Villain

that was he that ſpoke after that rate, that what was ſpoke by the Mate, and about his Anſwer, obſerving with himſelf the ſlightneſs of many places about the *Tower*, which made him ſay any Man might take it with Four or Five Hundred Men, if they had ſuch a mind, and Proviſion accordingly, that it was only for diſcourſe ſake, without any premeditated Deſign.

That what *Corbin* ſaid about the Crown, was enquired into *e France* by a former Jury not to hold water, that when one of the Company *Wyat*, was ſpeaking of the Power of the Power of Popes over Kings, &c. I replyed again, that if that were ſo, that the Pope could depoſe Kings at pleaſure, and diſpoſe there Crowns to others, (which I oppoſed and denied) that then he might give it to me or any other, and by that Doctrine, I might or any other there Challenge it, ſo that *Corbin* dealt by me as a Jeſuited Evidence, who hearing a Miniſter Preach upon that, in Pſalm the Fourteenth verſe the firſt, *the Fool hath ſaid in his Heart, there is no God*; he goes and ſwears that the Man ſpake Blaſphemy, ſaying, there is no God, leaving out the former Words, which being joyned are honeſt and good, and if *Corbin* had been ſo honeſt, as to ſpeak all what I ſaid, my words could no more have been Treaſon and Diſloyal, then the Miniſters words Blaſphemous, but I am bound to pray God to forgive my Enemies, not only ſeven but ſeventy times ſeven, and God forgive them all (tho never ſo Implacable) as I am taught to pray that God would forgive me my Treſpaſſes.

That I declare my Abhorrence of ſuch Deſigns and Practiſes, as have brought an *Odium* upon the Proteſtant Religion, let Men pretend to what they will, I am ſure they could be none that either Fear God, or Honor the King; if any blame me for knowing any thing of it, and did not immediatly diſcover it, I muſt Anſwer, that my Deſign was good, and I were loath to carry a piece, or a broken Story, as I told His Majeſty, or elſe he had heard it ſooner, and that *Lea* was well adviſed of, and my diſcharging him from my Houſe, gave no ſmall Jealouſie among other things. This being the Summ and Subſtance what I have to ſay, I now conclude, in owning my ſelf (whatever

ever others say or think) to dye in the belief of the Doctrin, of that part of Christs Church planted in *England*, being agreeable to the Doctrine of the Prophets and Apostles, Christ Jesus being the Chief Corner Stone, praying God to hasten the calling of the *Jews*, To bring in the *Gentiles*, destroy *Babylon*, build up *Sion*, preserve Great Britain, especially His Majesties Person and Government, that Peace with Truth may Flourish, Bless and provide for my dear Yoak-Fellow and little ones, with all my Relations; preserve *London* and *Westminster*, Order and over-rule all publick and private Transactions, to his Glory, and hasten his coming the second time.

Lastly, I Commit my Body to the Care of my Friends by His Majesties leave, for a decent Burial, Believing a Resurrection, and my Soul to that God whose right it is: But this would not be granted the Petitioned for,

from *Newgate*, *July*, 1683.

Ferguson.

A Letter, Written to his WIFE, out of Newgate

WHen God brought us first together, we made full account of parting one time or other but whose Lot should be first, or the manner of our parting, and death, that was Locked up in Gods Cabinet, and now after Fourteen Years cohabitation we must part, it's true, were it at our own House, and by an usual ordinary common way, we should be better pleased it may be, but this is the way appointed, my Sins have been the procuring, though Evil Men the Instrumental Cause. This we know, it is appointed to all Men once to dye, and after that the Judgment, it is now my Lot to be called away, not by an ordinary, but extraordinary, Violent Shameful way of dying, but what of all that? May God being reconciled to me through Christ, the Hand-writing Concealed, Sins Pardoned, Nature Sanctifyed, Soul Washed in the Blood of Sprinkling, Conscience Excusing not Accusing, as to that Crime Charged on me, though I have received Sentence from the Judgment Seat of Man, I shall be acquitted at the Judgment Seat of God, having this Confidence, the manner of dying, accompanyed with such outward Ignominy and Reproach, and so many Hundred Spectators, some to Triumph, others to please fancy, and a few out of true Love and Sympathy, I say in this Confidence, I am highly unconcern'd, it is but a few hours, and this Noise, Rout and Vanity will be over. What shall *Indians* that Dream of a place (after death) full of Carnal pleasure, shall Papists upon Account of their Merits, and an Absolution at Death, indure any kind of torture, and shall I who

who neither believe the one, and who abhors the other, be afraid of that which is but a Bug-bear to an ingenuous noble Soul, who is born from above; and now through the Infinite Merits of his dear Jesus, the alone Redeemer (besides whom he owns no other) that very Soul is hasting to the place from whence it came, and for the Body, the outer Shell, believing a Resurrection, however that be torn, shattered and devoured, every piece and particle shall be collected and brought together.

Now I bid thee adieu, till we meet where all Sighs and Tears shall be wiped away; but before we part, I am under all Obligations imaginable, to leave thee what I can to support thee, since I have left thee in such a condition, as (without a great measure of Strength and Grace) the thoughts thereof would quite sink thy Spirit: But chear up from these Considerations. What though my Husband be dead and gone, yet I have a tender, loving, good Father alive on Earth, and which is more, I have a greater and far better Father in Heaven. What though I am a Widow, and have many Fatherless Children to take care of and provide for; what then? have I not a God who hath filled himself the Father of the Fatherless, and a Husband to the Widdows in his holy Habitation? And so go on, reckoning as to Habitation, manner of dwelling, the difference of fine or course Food and Rayment; and as to Friends and Enemies, Read, ruddy *Job*'s condition. When at any time you think of your Husband and manner of his death, endeavour to fetch Honey out of the Lyons Carkass; banish away all hard thoughts of God, who hath done us no wrong; though this Providence seems harsh and severe to us, yet it is Just and Righteous in our Lord, *Even that God that chastiseth the Heathen, shall not he correct?* Psalm 94. *He that teacheth Man knowledge, shall not he know what is best for me?* I know that thoughts, and many troublesome and solicitous ones, will now and then arise, and work strangely; Consider it was thus with Holy *David*: Then in the multitude of thy thoughts within thee, let Gods Comforts delight thy Soul. *Martha* was cumbred about many things, I hope my *Mary* hath chosen that part that will never be taken from her; then let her acquiesce, in whatsoever revolutions shall pass over her head in this World, &c.

Here follows his Advice to his Children.

To my dear Children whom I leave under the protection, and to the care of that God who is the Father of the Fatherless; as my Daughters, Elizabeth *and* Mary, *my two Sons now in being,* John *and* Thomas, *and that which my Wife Travels with, God give her a good time: Advice to them all in general.*

DEar Children, since I am to leave you, and leave you in a vain, wicked, unkind World, and cannot leave you each an Estate or Portion to live upon in this world, I cannot, I dare not go off this Stage without letting you know that you had a Father, (some of you do now remember it, but all of you cannot) and not barely a Father, but such an one as did hope, a few days past, to have lived and seen you his Children to find Grace both in the eyes of God and Men; since its otherwise, and I am called away from you by an untimely and violent death, even such a death, as probably may be cast in your Teeth hereafter by some kinds of people. I leave you all I have (instead of Silver and Gold, Lands and Houses) that is, the Prayers, Blessing and Counsel of your Loving Dying Father, with a strict charge, as ever you hope to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, to keep it by you, follow it each of you in your own persons, and convey it down to your posterity, and the Great God Sanctify you, Bless, Protect and Keep you from all sin and danger hear, and at last bring you to his Eternal Kingdom.

Your Loving Father *J. Rouse.*

My Dear Children, my Prayers for you are, that as you are mine by natural Generation, That God would make you his by the Grace of Adoption, that when your Earthly Father shall leave you, the Father of Spirits may take care and provide for you; though you and every of you be Children of Wrath by Nature, you may never be Subjects of Wrath; though you live in the World, you may be kept from the evil of the World; and lastly, when you leave this World, you may have a House, not made with hands, Eternal in the Heavens.

By way of Counsel: Children, these things I write from a heart full of Bowels, especially since I am not like to see you, or speak one word to you more in this World.

In General: Fear God and keep his Commandments: Remember each of you your Creator in your youth.

Particularly,

Particularly, Above and before all other things mind the Duties of Religion God-ward, as Prayer for what you ſhall want, praiſe for what you have or ſhall receive; Read the Holy Scriptures ſome part every day, eſpecially the *Pſalms*, *Proverbs*, and the Epiſtles of St *Paul*, &c. and therein that which concerns you and your practice: Alſo other good Books, particularly the leſſer *Catechiſme*, and Biſhop *Vſhers Grounds of Religion*. Neglect no Ordinance of God publick or private: In Reading read a little at a time, and read diſtinctly; learn the 119 *Pſalm* by heart.

2. Be obedient and dutyful to your dear Mother, and obey all her lawful Commands chearfully, &c. Read *Col.* 3. 20.

3. When you have Maſters and Miſtreſſes, mind *Col.* 3. 22.

4. Submit to, and pray for Kings and all you live under, that under them you may live peaceable, &c.

5. Be kind and courteous to all perſons.

6. Avoid all evil wicked Company; among all Company be Wiſe as Serpents, Innocent as Doves; when others Curſe, do you Bleſs; pray for any that ſhall deſpitefully uſe you. Read *Matt.* 5.

7. Be kindly affectionated one towards another, do your utmoſt to build up one another for Heaven; and next, aſſiſt each other with what God ſhall give you of this World, one may be Rich another Poor.

8. Remember the Poor, eſpecially they of the Houſhold of Faith; if you have nothing to give them, at leaſt Pity or Pray for them, that you can beſtow at all times. What you do, do with a good Will and in Faith; *He that gives to the Poor, Lendeth to the Lord.*

Now to Each of you a-part.

And firſt to *Betty*, thou art grown up, its high time for thee to think of thy Duty towards God firſt, next to thy tender Mother; Come away from looſe Wanton Girls, ſtuddy to ſerve and pleaſe thy Mother, and eaſe her as much as may be in helping and looking after the Younger; Give not thy Mother cauſe to complain of thy undutifulneſs and ſtubborneſs; God make thee ſuch another *Elizabeth*, who with her Yoke-fellow walked in all the Commandments blameleſs.

Mary, What I ſay to *Betty* I ſay to thee, and God enable thee to chuſe the better part.

John, Thy Name ſignifies Grace; God furniſh thee with all manner of Grace from the Fountain of Grace, *John* 1. 12. Remember as thou art the Elder, and God ſpare thy Life, as God ſhall enable thee, I charge thee to mind thy Mother and Siſters.

Thomas,

Thomas, be not thou faithless, but believing; what advice I give in general to all, and in particular to thy Brother *John*, I give to thee.

To that unborn at present, whether *Benony*, if a Boy, or *Mara*, if a Maid, though thou never saw'st thy Father, I lay the same Obligation upon thee as upon the rest in thy Capacity: and to the God of Heaven and Earth keep and Bless each and all of you in Souls and Bodies, and the Grace of God that appears, teach you all, that denying Ungodliness and Worldly Lusts, you may live Soberly towards your selves, Righteously towards Men, and Godlily towards God, in this present evil World.

Dated from the Prison of *Newgate*, where I am under the Sentence of Death from Man, upon the Account of High-Treason Sworn against me, though (Blessed be God) under no Sentence of my Conscience within, for designing or compassing the Death of his present Majesty, (whom God preserve) or Levying Arms against his Royal person or Government; yet as in duty bound, do pray for my Enemies, that God will not lay my Blood to their Charge. And so I conclude,

Your Tender, Loving Father,
a few hours before his Execution,

J. ROUSE.

FINIS.

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